The Commoner

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CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

The time has arrived when the educational and organization work necessary to the election of a democratic congress should be begun. The legislation promised in the democratic platform adopted at Baltimore has only partly been fulfilled. It will require the active cooperation of a democratic congress during the next two years to assist President Wilson in fulfilling the other platform pledges. The activity as manifested by the special interests both in and out of congress should be a warning to progressive democrats who think that there will be no aggressive opposition to democratic congressional candidates this fall. The importance of electing a congress that will be in sympathy with President Wilson's administration can not be overestimated. If your district is not represented in congress by a progressive democrat, is it not possible to induce a progressive democrat to file for the nomination? If your district is represented by a progressive democrat, it is the duty of all progressive democrats to renominate and elect him, The Commoner believes that the best interests of the country will be served by the carrying out of all the platform pledges made at Baltimore. The Commoner intends to do its part in bringing about the election of a democratic congress for this purpose. In order to reach a larger number of voters during the congressional campaign and to enable congressional committees to use The Commoner as campaign literature, a special rate of four subscriptions until after the November election will be made for \$1.00, and additional campaign subscriptions will be supplied at 25 cents each. If you believe that The Commoner can be of help in electing a democrat to congress from your district, kindly fill out the coupon below for as many subscriptions as you feel able to place in your district, also ask your county and congressional committees to take up the work of placing The Commoner in the hands of the voters at our special congressional campaign rate of 25 cents each. Use the coupon below.

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Sectionalism Is Dead

June 4th may well be regarded in history as the day when the animosities aroused by the war were finally buried and the complete reunion of the once estranged sections formally proclaimed, for there was unveiled on that day at the Arlington national cemetery a beautiful monument, erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy to the southern soldiers who died for the confederate cause. The monument is of solid bronze, some thirty feet in height. The figure of the south, the plow-stock and sickle and a verse from the Scriptures constitute the synthesis of the whole work-peace to the living and peace to the dead. The monument is worthy of the dead, and is a splendid example of the work of the sculptor, Sir Moses Ezekiel, who entered the confederate service when a student at the Virginia military academy.

The ceremonies of the unveiling were impressive and beautiful. General Young, commander-in-chief of the United States Confederate veterans, opened the exercises with an address full of sentiment and rich in information. He was followed by General Washington Gardner, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, who, in an address, most appropriate and full of feeling, brought the greetings of the boys in blue. The audience then listened with rapt attention to the eloquent speech delivered by Colonel Robert E. Lee, a grandson of the great General Lee, which closed with a thrilling recital of the lines:

Your flag and my flag and how it flies today, O'er your land and my land and half the world

Rose red and blood red its stripes forever gleam; Snow white and soul white, the good forefathers' dream:

Sky blue and true blue, with stars that beam aright,

A glorious guidon by the day, a shelter for the night.

Your flag and my flag, and oh! how much it holds,

Your land and my land secure within its folds, Your heart and my heart beat quicker at its sight:

Sun-kissed and wind-tossed, the red, the blue, the white;

The one flag, the great flag, the flag for me and you,
Glorified all else beside, the red, the white, the

Colonel Hilary A. Herbert, who was secretary of the navy during the Cleveland administration, described the seven years' work of the Arlington Confederate Monument association leading up to the completion of the memorial. President McKinley and President Taft were mentioned with expressions of appreciation for their part in the consummation of the pl n. General Herbert, as chairman of the committee, gave the monument into the custody of Mrs. Daisy McLaurin Stevens, president general of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who, in an address replete with beautiful sentiments and elegantly expressed, entrusted this sacred symbol of southern affection into the keeping of the United States. President Wilson, by birth a son of the south and by choice of his countrymen chief executive at this happy period, accepted the monument for the United States and emphasized in tender and loving language the truth that it exemplifies and the lessons that it teaches. He said:

"I assure you that I am profoundly aware of the solemn significance of the thing that has now taken place. The Daughters of the Confederacy have presented a memorial of their dead to the government of the United States. I hope that you have noted the history of the conception of this idea. It was proposed by a president of the United States, who had himself been a distinguished officer in the union army, It was authorized by an act of congress of the United States. The cornerstone of the monument was laid by a president of the United States elevated to his position by the votes of the party which had chiefly prided itself upon sustaining the war for the union. And now it has fallen to my lot to accept in the name of this great government which I am privileged for the time to represent this emblem of a reunited

"I am not so much happy as proud to participate in this capacity on such an occasion; proud that I should represent such a people. Am I mis-

taken, ladies and gentlemen, in supposing that nothing of this sort could have occurred in anything but a democracy? The people of a democracy are not related to their rulers as subjects are related to a government. They are themselves the sovereign authority, and as they are neighbors of each other, quickened by the same passions and moved by the same motives, they can understand each other. They are shot through with some of the deepest and profoundest instincts of human sympathy. They choose their governments. They consult their rulers. They live their own life and they will not have that life disturbed and discolored by fraternal misunderstandings.

"This chapter in the history of the United States is now closed and I can bid you turn with me your faces to the future, quickened by the memories of the past, but with nothing to do with the contests of the past, knowing as we have shed our blood upon opposite sides we now face and admire one another. The generosity of our judgment was made up soon after this great struggle was over, when men came and sat together again in the congress and united in all the efforts of peace and of government; and our solemn duty is to see that each one of us is in his own consciousness and in his own conduct a replica of this great reunited people. It is our duty and our privilege to be like the country we represent, and, speaking no word of malice, no word of criticism even, standing shoulder to shoulder to lift the burdens of mankind in the future and show the paths of freedom to all the world."

It was a day not to be forgotten—marking an old era closed and a new era begun. Where else in all the world, or in what former time could such a scene be witnessed as that enacted on June 4th! When in the annals of war was ever victory so complete as that which welded together the discordant elements of a distracted union into an harmonious whole—a land in which the only rivalry is an honorable struggle to see which section can most contribute to the common good.

W. J. BRYAN.

WASHINGTON GARDNER'S SPEECH

Following is the speech of Washington Gardner, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., delivered at unveiling of confederate monument at Arlington the afternoon of June 4th:

It seems fitting that here in this place and on these grounds, once the home of Robert E. Lee, there should rest the remains of some of the gallant men who followed that great soldier even unto death. It is fitting here, in sight of the nation's capital, and in this vast burial plot consecrated to American valor that some of our fellow-countrymen, the representatives of once hostile armies whose unsurpassed bravery is now a common heritage and pride, should rest in undisturbed slumber, and that the place of final sepulture should be under the supervision and care of the national government.

The presence of the chief magistrate of the nation, members of his cabinet, and of others high in the councils of the government with that of representatives from every section of the country, participating in these dedicatory exercises serve to illustrate anew that the sectional bitterness and hate long preceding and which culminated in the great war no longer find a place in the hearts nor expression upon the lips of our countrymen.

Monuments of whatever enduring material are the visible expression of appreciation, of gratitude, or of affection. A monumentless people is either a people without a history or else a people without a heart.

This memorial structure speaks the language of peace and good will. It says to all who come hither and read the superscription that the swords and bayonets that once gleamed along the battle's fiery front have been "beaten into plowshares and pruning hooks." It declares through the symbolical wreath of unfading laurel held in outstretched hand above the sleeping dead that the spirit of heroic devotion and lofty self-sacrifice which they manifested is held in grateful and affectionate memory.

There is room in the hearts of the people of all the land for cherished recollections of the valorous dead, and, at the same time, for the most unfaltering love and loyalty and devotion to the union of all the states. Without the ex-